

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A vector having a portion encoding a 5'-untranslated region derived from an mRNA for a cold shock protein gene, wherein a mutation is introduced into the 5'-untranslated region such that a distance between stem structures formed in said region is altered.

2. (original) The vector according to claim 1, wherein the introduced mutation is insertion or deletion of a nucleotide.

3. (currently amended) The vector according to claim 1-~~or 2~~, wherein the mutation is introduced into a region corresponding to nucleotide 593 to nucleotide 598 in SEQ ID NO:1.

4. (currently amended) The vector according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 3, wherein the portion encoding a 5'-untranslated region further has an operator.

5. (original) The vector according to claim 4, wherein the portion encoding a 5'-untranslated region is a portion encoding a 5'-untranslated region that has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 3 or 4.

6. (currently amended) The vector according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 5, which has a promoter located upstream of the portion encoding a 5'-untranslated region.

7. (currently amended) The vector according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 6, which has a nucleotide sequence that is complementary to an anti-downstream box sequence in a ribosomal RNA of a host to be used, wherein said nucleotide sequence is located downstream of the portion encoding a 5'-untranslated region.

8. (currently amended) The vector according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 7, which is a plasmid vector.

9. (currently amended) A method for expressing a protein of interest, the method comprising:

(1) transforming a host with the vector defined by ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 8~~ into which a gene encoding a protein of interest has been incorporated to obtain a transformant;

(2) culturing the transformant; and
(3) shifting the culture temperature down to one lower than a conventional temperature to express the protein of interest.

10. (original) The method according to claim 9, wherein a promoter is induced during or after step (3).